September 25, 1999

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Commissioner Jane Henney Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, Maryland 20857

I am writing in response to Petition #99P-0485 to urge you to ban medically useful antibiotics from livestock feed.

For decades, livestock producers have fed human antibiotics to hogs, cows, and poultry to speed their growth or counteract the effects of crowded living conditions and poor hygiene. In fact, over one third of the antibiotics manufactured in the United States each year are added to animal feed. Mounting evidence has proven that the overuse of antibiotics for livestock makes the drugs less effective for humans.

Scientists, health organizations, and governments around the world are urging that antibiotics not be squandered to fatten livestock. The World Health Organization recommended that antibiotics used to treat humans should not be used to promote animal growth; the GAO reported that "research has linked three diseases with antibiotic-resistant strains affecting humans to the use of antibiotics in animals"; and the European Union has already banned human antibiotics in animal feed.

Please, do not allow an antibiotic to be used in livestock feed if that antibiotic is used in human medicine.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Gardner 711 North Delphia Avenue

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